

Abstract of the Disclosure

An optical scanner having a simple structure in which the light quantities of a plurality of light beams are not varied by differences in polarization direction among the light beams. The optical scanner scans a surface by means of a plurality of light beams in which the polarization direction of at least one of the light beams is different from the polarization directions of the other light beams. An optical element having a surface with a reflectance for s-polarized light and a reflectance for p-polarized light that are substantially the same at a given incident angle is provided in the optical paths of the light beams.